

Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton

*First Vice-Chair:
Laurie Slade Funderburk*

Legislative Oversight Committee



*William K. (Bill) Bowers
Raye Felder
Phyllis J. Henderson
Mia S. McLeod
Ralph W. Norman
Robert L. Ridgeway III
James E. Smith, Jr.
Edward R. Tallon Sr.
Robert Q. Williams*

*Nathan Ballentine
Gary E. Clary
Kirkman Finlay III
Joseph H. Jefferson Jr.
Walton J. McLeod
Joshua Putnam
Samuel Rivers Jr.
Tommy M. Stringer
Bill Taylor*

South Carolina House of Representatives

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**Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting
August 26, 2015
2:00 p.m.
Room 516 - Blatt Building**

ARCHIVED VIDEO

- I. You may access archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and click on "Committee Postings and Reports," then under House Standing Committees click on "Legislative Oversight". Lastly, click on "Video Archives" for a listing of archived videos for the Legislative Oversight Committee.

MINUTES

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires the standing committees of the House to prepare and make available for public inspection, in compliance with Section 30-4-90, the minutes of full committee meetings. House Rule 4.5 further provides that such minutes need not be verbatim accounts of such meetings.
- II. The House Legislative Oversight Committee (Committee) was called to order by Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, in Room 516 of the Blatt Building, Columbia, South Carolina. Chairman Newton made brief welcoming remarks and general announcements. All Members were present for the meeting, except for the Honorable Laurie Slade Funderburk, the Honorable Phyllis Henderson, and the Honorable Joshua Putnam.
- III. Chairman Newton submitted proposed minutes from the Committee's previous meeting, April 14, 2015. There was a motion to approve the minutes. A roll call vote was held, and all present voted in favor of approval.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the Committee April 14, 2015, meeting	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
1. Nathan Ballentine			
2. William K. "Bill" Bowers	Yea		
3. Gary E. Clary	Yea		
4. Raye Felder	Yea		
5. Kirkman Finlay, III	Yea		
6. Laurie Slade Funderburk			(Not Present)
7. Phyllis Henderson			(Not Present)
8. Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	Yea		
9. Mia S. McLeod	Yea		
10. Walton J. McLeod			
11. Ralph W. Norman			
12. Joshua A. Putnam			(Not Present)
13. Robert L. Ridgeway, III	Yea		
14. Samuel Rivers, Jr.	Yea		
15. James E. Smith, Jr.	Yea		
16. Tommy M. Stringer	Yea		
17. Edward R. "Eddie" Tallon	Yea		
18. Bill Taylor	Yea		
19. Robert Q. Williams	Yea		
20. Wm. Weston J. Newton	Yea		

IV. The next order of business was a status update on scheduled agency oversight studies agencies.

An update was provided about Restructuring and Seven-Year Plan Report guidelines. Restructuring and Seven-Year Plan Report guidelines were sent to 65 agencies on March 2, 2015, and all have returned them. These are posted online. Also, pursuant to Standard Practice 4.2 a list is published online of agencies that did and did not provide restructuring recommendations. Notably, 48 agencies did not have restructuring recommendations, and 17 agencies did.

An update was provided about ways constituents can be involved in the process. It was noted that from May 1, 2015, until May 31, 2015, the Committee posted an online survey to solicit comments from the public about the Comptroller General's Office, the Department of Transportation, First Steps for School Readiness, and the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Juvenile Justice. There were 1,788 responses, with at least one coming from each of the 46 counties. The responses are posted verbatim online. It was noted that a survey will be available on the Committee's website during the month of September to receive constituent input on the State Transportation Bank, School for the Deaf and Blind, Commission for the Blind, Department of Public Safety, and Treasurer's Office. It was further noted that the public has had and continues to have the opportunity to submit written comments online to the Committee about the 65 agencies identified in the House Journal as will be reviewed by this Committee. Also, online there is an option for constituents to request notification when meetings are scheduled.

An update was provided about program evaluation reports. It was noted that program evaluation reports for agencies are posted online.

An update was provided about the status of staff studies. A staff study and of the Comptroller General has been completed, and the agency has provided a response. Staff studies for the Department of Transportation, First Steps to School Readiness, Department of Social Services, and Department of Juvenile Justice are in various draft phases. Staff is working on these in the priority determined by the Committee.

Chairman Newton noted for the record his receipt on May 5, 2015, of a letter from the Honorable Eddie Tallon who serves on the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee that is studying the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Public Safety. The letter informed Chairman Newton that Representative Tallon in an abundance of caution and to avoid any potential perception of a conflict of interest with the study of the Department of Public Safety, resigned from his duties on the South Carolina Public Safety Coordinating Council.

- V. The next order of business was discussion of requests for unscheduled oversight studies, which included a discussion of a mechanism for undertaking an unscheduled study as set forth in statute and Committee Rules. Six House Members requested an investigation into the state's relationship, funding of, and other activities relating to Planned Parenthood's facilities and other abortion providers in South Carolina. There were a combination of requests. Copies of the letters received by the Committee are available online. Further it was noted the Governor recently sent a request to the Department of Health and Environmental Control seeking an investigation into the policies and practices of abortion clinics.

Chairman Newton recognized the Honorable Donna C. Hicks to speak about her request to the Committee to open an unscheduled study. The following Committee Members posed questions and/or made comments: the Honorable James E. Smith, Jr.; the Honorable Kirkman Finlay, III; the Honorable Walton McLeod; the Honorable Mia S. McLeod; the Honorable Tommy Stringer; the Honorable Raye Felder; the Honorable Bill Taylor; the Honorable Nathan Ballentine; the Honorable Gary E. Clary; the Honorable Ralph W. Norman; the Honorable Robert Q. Williams; the Honorable Edward R. Tallon; and the Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton.

The Honorable Bill Taylor made a motion for the House Oversight Committee to commence an investigation into state agencies, including, but not limited to the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Environmental Control, and Department of Health and Human Services, relationship with, funding of, and other activities relating to Planned Parenthood facilities and other abortion providers in South Carolina. The following Committee Members posed questions and/or made comments: the Honorable Gary E. Clary; the Honorable Robert Q. Williams; the Honorable Edward R. Tallon; the Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton; and the Honorable Nathan Ballentine. The motion passed.

Motion for the House Oversight Committee to commence an investigation into state agencies, including, but not limited to the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Environmental Control, and Department of Health and Human Services, relationship with, funding of, and other activities relating to Planned Parenthood facilities and other abortion providers in South Carolina:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
1. Nathan Ballentine	Yea		
2. William K. "Bill" Bowers		Nay	
3. Gary E. Clary	Yea		
4. Raye Felder	Yea		
5. Kirkman Finlay, III	Yea		
6. Laurie Slade Funderburk			(Not Present)
7. Phyllis Henderson			(Not Present)
8. Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.		Nay	
9. Mia S. McLeod		Nay	
10. Walton J. McLeod		Nay	
11. Ralph W. Norman		Nay	
12. Joshua A. Putnam			(Not Present)
13. Robert L. Ridgeway, III			(Present)
14. Samuel Rivers, Jr.	Yea		
15. James E. Smith, Jr.		Nay	
16. Tommy M. Stringer	Yea		
17. Edward R. "Eddie" Tallon	Yea		
18. Bill Taylor	Yea		
19. Robert Q. Williams		Nay	
20. Wm. Weston J. Newton	Yea		

Additionally, the Honorable Ralph W. Norman made procedural inquiries, and the Honorable Edward R. Tallon made comments to the full Committee regarding input received from a constituent about an agency.

VII. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.